

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 5-13 without prejudice or disclaimer; therefore, claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for approving the drawings filed on July 31, 2002

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,602,509 to Kimura. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Kimura does not disclose or suggest the combination of features of Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 1-4.

For example, one of the features of Applicant's invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 3 is "drain electrodes of the first and second MOS transistors forming output terminals for outputting a subtraction signal". The Examiner alleges that the first and second MOS transistors of the claim correspond to MOS transistor M56 and M57 of Figure 1 of Kimura, respectively. Figure 1 of Kimura shows a circuit for linearizing the transconductance of the amplifier. The circuit has a voltage-input/current-output structure. In other words, while the input signal to the amplifier in Figure 1 is a voltage, the output is a current signal. In particular, the output signal *i* is derived from the drain of MOS transistors M59 and M57, not M56 and M57 as the claim would require. Current *i* is the output of the current mirror circuit formed by M58-M59 (column 2, lines 62-65). Therefore, current *i* is not a subtraction output signal as required by the claim, because it is a current, not a voltage. Even if, assuming *arguendo*, the circuit formed by M56 and M57 is a subtractor circuit, current *i* is not its output.

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Because Kimura does not disclose or suggest as least these features of the claims, claims 1 and 3 are not readable on (i.e. are not anticipated by) Kimura at least for this reason. Claims 2 and 4 would be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 3, respectively.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5-13 are canceled.